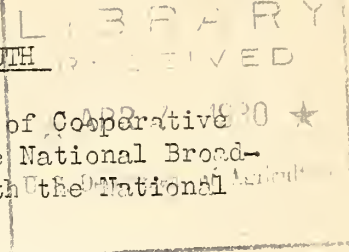


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A radio talk by J. A. Evans, associate chief, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered from the Washington studios of the National Broadcasting Company and through 40 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Friday, March 21, 1930.

The safe farming or live-at-home program for the South is neither new nor revolutionary. Its essential features are advocated by county agents and farm leaders and have been consistently practiced by enough progressive farmers in every section to prove their value. The chief items are:

An ample, all year round supply of home grown feeds for the family use.

The production, on the farm, of the feed needed for all the livestock and poultry, including grain, hay and pastures.

Securing a cash income from other sources in addition to the major crop.

The economical production of as large a cotton, tobacco, or other cash crop, as the prospective market demand will justify. Keeping up the fertility of the soil, by growing suitable legumes, and by the practice of other soil building and soil preserving methods.

Farmers who follow this plan always have a good-living, can pay their debts, and have something left over at the end of each year.

An ample supply of food for the farm family comes first. Their health, efficiency and happiness in a large measure depends on having a generous and proper diet. A good all the year garden of 1/2 acre or more; a few extra acres for growing field crop foods; one cow, one sow, and 50 to 100 hens well fed and cared for, will supply most of the food requirements of a large family, and perhaps bring some extra cash as well. I want to emphasize the possibilities of a good home garden.

"In Mississippi, a one-half acre garden netted \$522.10 one year, and \$666.95 the next year." Take the records of 49 gardens in South Carolina averaging nearly half an acre in size. The 49 gardens fed 271 people and after 3,000 quarts of vegetables were canned, the balance of the crops was sold for \$3,690.000. A one-quarter acre garden produced enough to feed 10 people all season, to can 450 quarts and to sell \$220.20 worth of vegetables. These are verified records of garden demonstrations.

It is of especial importance for the South to grow plenty of feed this year. The supply is low and credit prices will be high. The cost of purchased feed usually absorbs most of the profit on the South's cotton crop. Most of this feed is purchased on credit, at a high cost.

Home grown feed is the key to a profitable livestock industry in the South. A promising beginning has been made in dairying, in producing market hogs, and in other livestock enterprises in all the States, but these industries cannot prosper, or even survive, on purchased feed. Corn and other feed crops can be economically grown in the South, when planted on good land and properly fertilized and cultivated. There are thousands of demonstrations that prove it.

The average yield of corn in Georgia was only 13 bushels per acre last year, but on 179, 5-acre corn demonstrations, an average yield of approximately 50 bushels per acre was made, at an average cost of 47 cents per bushel. The widest range of leguminous hay crop can also be profitably grown. In the semi arid regions corn is not, of course, a safe crop, but the grain sorghums make a perfect substitute and can be economically grown.

A profitable agriculture cannot exist without a fertile soil. The South is rapidly losing its soil fertility by erosion, due in large part to the persistent over emphasis it has given the clean culture crops cotton and tobacco. Growing legumes for soil improvement, building terraces to prevent washing, and rotation of crops must become a universal practice if the productivity of Southern farms is to be increased.

Each item in the Live-at-home program:- home grown food, home grown feed, supplemental income, economic production of the major cash crops, and soil improvement are absolutely essential for a prosperous Southern agriculture.

The adoption of such a program would insure better farm living, improved credit, and a larger dependable farm income. It would also minimize the danger this year and in future years of over-planting, and over-production of cotton, which in the past, have so often reduced incomes and brought disaster to the South.